

of the repayment shall be subtracted from the total amount collected. The appropriate retention rate shall be applied to the reduced collection total.

(5) In cases where FCS has billed a State agency for negligence, any amounts collected from households which were caused by the State's negligence will be credited by FCS. When submitting these payments, the State agency shall include a note as an attachment to the quarterly reporting form specified in paragraph (h)(2) of this section which shows the amount that should be credited against the State's bill.

(j) *Returned coupons.* If coupon books collected from households as payment for claims are returned intact and in usable form, the State agency may return them to coupon inventory. The State agency shall destroy any coupons or coupon books which are not returned to inventory in accordance with the procedures outlined in § 274.7(f).

(k) *Claims discharged through bankruptcy.* State agencies shall act on behalf of, and as, FCS in any bankruptcy proceeding against bankrupt households owing food stamp claims. State agencies shall possess any rights, priorities, interests, liens or privileges, and shall participate in any distribution of assets, to the same extent as FCS. Acting as FCS, State agencies shall have the power and authority to file objections to discharge, proofs of claims, exceptions to discharge, petitions for revocation of discharge, and any other documents, motions or objections which FCS might have filed. Any amounts collected under this authority shall be transmitted to FCS as provided in paragraph (h) of this section.

(l) *Accounting procedures.* Each State agency shall be responsible for maintaining an accounting system for monitoring claims against households. At a minimum, the accounting system shall be designed to readily accomplish the following:

(1) Document the circumstances which resulted in a claim, the procedures used to calculate the claim, the methods, used to collect the claim and, if applicable, the circumstances which resulted in suspension or termination of collection action.

(2) Identify those situations in which an amount not yet restored to a household can be used to offset a claim owed by the household.

(3) Identify those households that have failed to make installment payments on their claims.

(4) Document how much money was collected in payment of a claim and how much was submitted to FCS.

(5) Identify at certification household that owe outstanding payments on a previously issued claim determination. At the time the household is certified and receives an initial allotment (as specified at § 273.17(d)(4)), the initial allotment, whether paid retroactively or prospectively, shall not be reduced to offset claims.

(m) *Interstate claims collection.* In cases where a household moves out of the area under a State agency's jurisdiction, the State agency should initiate or continue collection action against the household for any overissuance to the household which occurred while it was under the State agency's jurisdiction. The State agency which overissued benefits to the household shall have the first opportunity to collect any overissuance. However, if the State agency which overissued benefits to the household does not take prompt action to collect, then the State agency which administers the area into which the household moves should initiate action to collect the overissuance. Prior to initiating action to collect such overissuances, the State agency which administers the area into which the household moves shall contact the State agency which overissued benefits to ascertain that it does not intend to pursue prompt collection. The State share of any collected claims, as provided in § 273.18(h), shall be retained by the State agency which collects the overissuance.

[Amdt. 242, 48 FR 6861, Feb. 15, 1983]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 273.18, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

§ 273.19 [Reserved]

§ 273.20 SSI cash-out.

(a) *Ineligibility.* No individual who receives supplemental security income

(SSI) benefits and/or State supplementary payments as a resident of California is eligible to receive food stamp benefits. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services has determined that the SSI payments in California have been specifically increased to include the value of the food stamp allotment.

(b) *Receipt of SSI benefits.* In California, an individual must actually receive, not merely have applied for, SSI benefits to be determined ineligible for the food stamp program. If the State agency provides payments at least equal to the level of SSI benefits to individuals who have applied for but are awaiting an SSI eligibility determination, receipt of these substitute payments will terminate the individual's eligibility for food stamp benefits. Once SSI benefits are received, the individual will remain ineligible for food stamp benefits, even during months in which receipt of the SSI benefits is interrupted, or suspended, until the individual is terminated from the SSI program.

(c) *Income and resources.* In California, the income and resources of the SSI recipient living in a household shall not be considered in determining eligibility or level of benefits of the household, as specified in § 273.11(d).

[Amdt. 132, 43 FR 47889, Oct. 17, 1978, as amended by Amdt. 132, 44 FR 33383, June 8, 1979. Redesignated at 45 FR 7217, Jan. 31, 1980, and amended by Amdt. 237, 47 FR 57669, Dec. 28, 1982; Amdt. 269, 51 FR 10793, Mar. 28, 1986; Amdt. 356, 59 FR 29713, June 9, 1994; Amdt. 364, 61 FR 54320, Oct. 17, 1996]

§ 273.21 Monthly Reporting and Retrospective Budgeting (MRRB).

(a) *System design.* This section provides for an MRRB system for determining household eligibility and benefits. For included households, this system replaces the prospective budgeting system provided in the preceding sections of this part. The MRRB system provides for the use of retrospective information in calculating household benefits, normally based on information submitted by the household in monthly reports. The State agency shall establish an MRRB system as follows:

(1) In establishing either a one-month or a two-month MRRB system, the State agency shall use the same system it uses in its AFDC Program unless it has been granted a waiver by FCS. Differences between a one-month and a two-month system are described in paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) The State agency shall determine eligibility, either prospectively or retrospectively, on the same basis that it uses for its AFDC program, unless it has been granted a waiver by FCS.

(3) The household shall be certified for a continuous period of up to twelve months, but for no less than six months. These limits may be waived for certain categories of households if the State agency can demonstrate that the waiver will improve the administration of the program.

(4) *Budgeting waivers.* FCS may approve waivers of the budgeting requirements of this section to conform to budgeting procedures in the AFDC program, except for households excluded from retrospective budgeting under paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Included and excluded households.* The establishment of either a monthly reporting or retrospective budgeting system is a State agency option. Certain households are specifically excluded from both monthly reporting and retrospective budgeting. A household that is included in a monthly reporting system must be retrospectively budgeted. Households not required to submit monthly reports may have their benefits determined on either a prospective or retrospective basis at the State agency's option, unless specifically excluded from retrospective budgeting.

(1) The following households are excluded from both monthly reporting and retrospective budgeting:

(i) Migrant or seasonal farmworker households.

(ii) Households in which all members are homeless individuals.

(iii) Households with no earned income in which all adult members are elderly or disabled.

(2) Households residing on an Indian reservation where there was no monthly reporting system in operation on March 25, 1994 are excluded from monthly reporting.